

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/TRA/MA:CTAYLOR, JR.
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EWWT, KS

SUBJECT:OCEAN SHIPPING--ROK CONTAINERSHIP ROUTES

REF: SEOUL 3291

1. FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION WILL SCHEDULE CONSIDERATION BY COMMISSIONERS OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF EXISTING SPACE CHARTER AGREEMENT WITHIN NEXT THREE WEEKS. FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION, COMMISSIONERS WILL IMMEDIATELY VOTE ON MODIFICATION. AT PRESENT, THERE APPEAR TO BE NO MAJOR IMPEDIMENTS TO APPROVAL.

2. DEPARTMENT INFORMED BY FMC THAT DELAY IN CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATION TO SPACE CHARTER AGREEMENT IS DUE TO UNRESPONSIVENESS OF ROK EMBASSY TO FMC REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.
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MATION. AS EARLY AS MID-1977, FMC REQUESTED THAT ROK EMBASSY PROVIDE COPY OF ROK CARGO PREFERENCE LAW, TOGETHER WITH EXPLANATION OF ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR U.S.-FLAG CARRIERS. FMC RECEIVED NO RESPONSE FROM EMBASSY AND FOLLOWED UP WITH ADDITIONAL LETTERS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1978. FINALLY, IN EARLY APRIL ROK EMBASSY RESPONDED WITH LETTER EXPLAINING THAT ROK CARGO PREFERENCE LAW DOES NOT

APPLY TO U.S.-FLAG CARRIERS. RECEIPT OF THIS RESPONSE HAS
CLEARED WAY FOR FMC TO SCHEDULE CONSIDERATION OF MODIFI-
CATION TO SPACE CHARTER AGREEMENT.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT KOREA SHIPPING
CORPORATION'S CASE HAS NOT BEEN HELPED BY SOMETIMES
HEAVY-HANDED APPROACHES OF KSC REPRESENTATIVES AND ROK
EMBASSY OFFICERS, WHICH HAVE CAUSED IRRITATION AMONG
FMC STAFF. VANCE

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